Assessing trainee's profile for better adoption of home science practices

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■**ABSTRACT :** The present investigation was conducted to assess trainee's profile for better adoption of home science practices. The study was conducted in purposively selected *Rauwal, Sidhwan Kalan, Talwandi Khurd* and *Sarabha* villages of Ludhiana district, where RAWE (Rural Awareness Work Experience) programme was conducted during the year 2013-14 to 2016-17. From each village, thirty rural women who were exposed to home science practices during RAWE were randomly selected. Thus, a total of 120 respondents constituted the sample of the study. Data were collected through a well structured and pre tested interview schedule. The results of the study showed positive and significant relation between the educational qualification, land holding, annual income of family and mass media usage. However, age was negatively and significantly associated with adoption status of practices. Practices should be need based and cost effective and students should be trained properly before RAWE were the major suggestions given by the respondents for improvement in RAWE programme.

■ **KEY WORDS:** Rural Awareness Work experience, Adoption, Home science practices, Trainees

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Training plays an important role in the advancement of human performance in a given situation. Training provides a systematic improvement of knowledge and skills which in turn helps the trainees to function effectively and efficiently in their given task on completion of the training (Lynton and Pareek, 1990). State Agricultural Universities (SAU's) regularly organizes trainings for creating awareness, educating and motivating the farmers, farm women and rural youth to adopt entrepreneurship in agriculture and allied fields. Rural Awareness Work Experience (RAWE) programme was introduced in to the curriculum of B.Sc. Home Science (Hons.) by Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) New Delhi, in the year 2002. It also aims at bringing improvement in quality of life of rural families. In Home science this programme is offered to final year students to disseminate home science technologies and practices to rural women. Every year, final year students go to village and train women in various home science practices for nearly two months. But for bringing desirable changes, the assessment of trainer's profile is required, which can give idea about need, interest and requirement of rural women about the programme by which the desired changes can be made

in RAWE. Therefore, the present study was planned with the following objectives :

– To assess the socio personal profile of the trainees of RAWE programme.

– To find out the relationship between socio personal profile and adoption status of the respondents.

■ RESEARCH METHODS

The present study was conducted on rural women, who had attended the RAWE programme organised by College of Home Science, Punjab Agricultural University, Ludhiana. Four villages *i.e. Rauwal, Sidhwan Kalan, Talwandi Khurd* and *Sarabha* from Ludhiana district were selected for the purpose of the study where RAWE programme was conducted during the year 2013-14 to 2016-17. The data were collected by personally interviewing, thirty women from each village who were exposed to Home Science practices during RAWE programme. Thus, a total of 120 women were interviewed for the purpose of the study. Mass media exposure was studied on four point continuum as daily, often, sometimes and never. Scores of 3, 2, 1 and 0 were assigned, respectively. The total scores revealed the extent of mass media exposure by the respondent. On the basis of obtained scores, the respondents were categorized into low, medium and high level of exposure. To find out the relationship between profile and adoption status of the respondents Karl Pearson's formula of correlation co-efficient was used.

■ RESEARCH FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION

The results obtained from the present investigation as well as relevant discussion have been summarized under following heads :

Socio personal profile of the Trainee's:

The socio personal profile of the trainees in respect to their age, caste, educational qualification, marital status, type of family, total number of family members, family occupation, land holding and annual income of the family was analysed as shown in Table 1. The findings have been discussed as following:

Age :

Age is an important social variable as it influences the attitude and values of individuals to a great extent. Data indicates that the age of respondents varied from

Table 1 : Distribution of respondents according to their socio personal profile (n=120)		
Socio personal characteristics	F	%
Age		
18-26	23	19.16
27-35	72	60.00
36-45	18	15.00
46-55	7	5.83
Caste		
General	73	60.83
SC/ST	27	22.50
BC	18	15.00
OBC	2	1.66
Educational qualification		
Illiterate	18	15.00
Middle	10	12.50
Matric	18	15.00
Higher secondary	39	32.50
Diploma holder	11	9.16
Graduate	16	13.33
Post graduate	8	6.66
Marital status		
Unmarried	25	20.83
Married	92	76.66
Divorced	1	0.83
Widow	2	1.66
Type of family		
Nuclear	45	37.50
Joint	65	70.83
Extended	10	8.33
Family size		
Small (3-5)	45	37.50
Medium (6-8)	69	57.5
Large (9-11)	6	5.00
Family occupation		
Agriculture	49	40.83
Business	3	2.50
Service (govt./pvt.)	13	10.83
Labour	28	23.33
Agriculture + Service	15	12.50
Agriculture + Labour	12	10.00
Land holding		
Landless	28	23.33
Marginal (Less than 1 ha)	25	20.83
Small (1-2 ha)	35	29.16
Semi-medium (2-4 ha)	17	14.16
Medium (4-10 ha)	9	7.50
Large (10 ha and above)	6	5.00
Annual Income of the family (Rs.)		
Upto 1,00,000	28	23.00
1,00,001 - 3,00,000	35	29.16
3,00,001- 5,00,000	36	30.00
5,00,001 - 7,00,000	15	20.83
More than 7 Lakh	4	3.33

18-55 years. Sixty per cent of the respondents were in the age group of 27 to 35 years followed by 19.16 per cent in age group of 18-26 years and 15.00 per cent in age group of 36-45 years. Only 5.83 per cent of the respondents were in age group of 46-55 years. Thus, the findings revealed that younger girls/ women constituted the actual group of the respondents. Similar findings were also reported by Gupta and Verma (2013).

Caste:

Caste is a system of dividing people in a society into different classes. There were four categories *i.e.* General, Schedule caste/Schedule tribes, Backward class and Other backward classes to which respondents belonged. The data pertaining to caste indicates that nearly sixty (60.83) per cent of the respondents belonged to general category whereas 24.17 per cent belonged to SC/ST category and only 15 per cent of the respondents belonged to backward caste. Contrary results were observed by Kaur (2018), who reported that least number of trainees was from general caste.

Educational qualification:

Education was defined as formal schooling of the respondents. The data presented in Table 1 pertaining to education of the respondents varied from middle level to post-graduate level of education (including diploma). The data shows that maximum number of respondents *i.e.* 33.33 per cent were matriculate, followed by higher senior secondary level with 24.17 per cent. About, 15.83 per cent of the respondents had middle level of education and 9.17 per cent of the respondents were graduate. Only 9.16 per cent and 6.66 per cent of the respondents were found to be diploma holder and post graduates, respectively. Similar findings were also reported by Sirdhar *et al.* (2013).

Marital status :

Marriage is one of the most important social institutions. The data in Table 1 further indicates that more than two-third of the respondents (*i.e.* 78.33%) were married, while 20.83 per cent of the respondents were unmarried and less than one per cent (0.83%) of the respondents was found to be divorced. Similar findings were also reported by Kaur (2018).

Type of family:

Family structure is a very important parameter which influences the environment of the family. Type of family in which person lives has immense importance in deciding his values and behaviour which affect his or her attitude. So, It was very important to know the family type of the respondents. There were mainly three types of families *i.e.* nuclear, joint and extended. The data presented in the table indicates that large majority of the respondents (70.83) were having joint family and 37.50 per cent of the respondents had nuclear family. Only 8.33 per cent of the respondents belonged to extended families.

Family size:

It can be observed from the table that 57.50 per cent of the respondents were from medium sized family with 6-8 members, while 37.50 per cent were from small families with 4-6 members and 5 per cent had 8-10 members in their family.

Family occupation:

It refers to the job done by the family of the respondent or by respondent to carry their livelihood. The close perusal of Table 1 reveals that about 40 per cent of the respondents had agriculture as their main occupation, whereas 23.33 per cent of the respondents belonged to labour class. About, 12.50 per cent of the respondents were fully engaged in agriculture as well as services while, 10.83 per cent of the respondents were involved in government or private jobs. Only, 2.50 per cent of the respondents were from business background and 10.00 per cent of the respondents belonged to agriculture and labour class.

Land holding:

Land holding referred to the cultivated land that the respondent or her family operated at the time of the investigation. The number of hectares cultivated by the respondent or her family was interpreted as the earned source of the respondent.Overview of Table 1 shows that 29.16 percent of the respondents had 1-2 hectares land followed by 20.83 per cent and 14.16 per cent with less than one hectare and 2-4 hectares of land, respectively. Nearly twenty per cent (23.33%) respondents were landless.

Annual income of the family:

Annual income refers to the income of an individual

and his family from all sources in a year. The data in Table 1 showed the annual income of the family. The data revealed that 30 per cent of respondents had 3,00,000 - 5,00,000 lakh income followed by the 29.16 per cent of respondents who had 1,00,000 - 3,00,000 lakh of income annually from all the sources. Only 3.33 per cent respondents had the annual income of more than Rs. 7,00,000.

Distribution of respondents according to extent of Mass media exposure:

It refers to the extent of exposure of respondents to various print, electronic and social media like newspapers, magazines, books, radio, television, mobile, internet, whatsapp and facebook etc. Data given in Table 2 indicates that large majority (81.66%) of the respondents had a low level of print media exposure followed by 18.33 per cent of respondents with medium level of exposure. It is important to mention here that from the print media, only few of the respondents read newspaper on daily basis.

Table 2 : Distribution of respondents according to extent of mass media exposure (n=120)		
Mass media	F	%
Print Media		
Low (0-4)	98	81.66
Medium (5-8)	22	18.33
High (9-12)	-	-
Electronic media		
Low (0-4)	24	20.00
Medium (5-8)	84	70.00
High (9-12)	12	10.00
Social media		
Low (0-4)	35	29.16
Medium (5-8)	67	55.83
High (9-12)	18	15.00

In case of electronic media majority (70.00%) of the respondents had a medium level of exposure followed by 20.00 per cent with low level exposure. Lowest percentage of (10.00%) respondents had fallen in high level category of electronic media exposure. Here, it is also important to reveal that majority of the respondents use television and mobile on daily basis.

Social media had a great impact on the life of each individual. In this modern era, it is an essential part of the life. Therefore, it was also studied. Findings reveales

that the highest percentage (55.83%) of the respondents had medium level of social media exposure followed by 29.16 per cent of low level of social media exposure. Similar findings were also reported by Kaur (2018).

Relationship between profile and adoption status of the respondents :

To determine the relationship of adoption of home science practices with profile of selected home makers, the correlation analysis was worked out and results are presented in Table 3.

Table 3 : Relationship between Profile and adoption status of the respondents	
Profile variable	'r' value
Age	-0.183[*]
Educational qualification	0.93[*]
Total number of family members	0.050[NS]
Land holding	0.180[*]
Annual income of the family	0.245[*]
Mass media usage	0.164[*]

*indicate significance of value at P=0.05 level
NS – Non significant

The results revealed that age of the respondents was negatively and significantly associated with the extent of adoption of home science practices at 5 per cent level of significance. It was observed that the respondents in the higher age group secured low adoption level than that middle and young age group of the respondents. This could be because, the young and middle aged women might be more enthusiastic in adopting the new and useful practices and also because women in the young age are liable to change their concepts as they are not too rigid like the old age women.

The variables educational qualification, land holding, annual income of the family and mass media usage were positively and significantly related. It is obvious that land holding and annual income was significantly related to adoption as it indirectly focused on the income of the family. Generally, individuals having more income accessible to education and social media, had adopted more practices and hence the adoption level was found more in case of the respondents belonging to the higher income families. Women having low income may not be in a position to purchase the sufficient raw material for adoption of new practices. Findings are in line with Khan *et al.* (2005).

However, variable total number of family members

did not have significant relationship with extent of adoption of home science practices. It can be concluded that educational qualification ,land holding ,annual income of the family and mass media usage effects the adoption of home science practices.

Conclusion:

There was positive and significant relation between the educational qualification, land holding, annual income of family and mass media usage whereas; age was negatively and significantly associated with adoption status of practices. So, it can be concluded that women with higher qualification, medium to high family income , medium level of mass media usage and younger age group were found to have high adoption status of the given practices.

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